



# DELHI

## THE CAPITAL OF INDIA

*An Up-to-date & Illustrated Guide Book*

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A. C. JAIN

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Lal Chand & Sons

Enquiries pursued on the spot do not always tend to facilitate matters. He is frequently annoyed by finding that to reach a certain spot he has to retrace his steps and so cover the same ground over again which leads to vexatious waste of energy, time and money.

In the hope of lessening the difficulties I am presenting this practical useful and concise book. The six older city of Delhi modern or present Delhi and New Delhi with their places of interest, distances of sites, their convenient itinerary Taxi & Tonga fares Bus Service and other information have been described.

In this book I have also dealt with a brief history of Delhi of Aryas, Delhi of Mohammadans, and Delhi of British as for a better appreciation of the celebrated sights of Delhi essential to be acquainted with its history.

This book lay no claim to finality but I hope it will help to my tourist friends by every possible way. I shall be much obliged to readers for any suggestions they may wish to offer for the improvement of this book.

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# DELHI

## "THE CAPITAL OF INDIA"

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THE ancient city of Delhi is Situated on the west bank of the river Jamuna in a narrow plain between the river and the northern most spur of the Araveli Mountains, with an elevation of about 720 feet above sea level. It is a sirtorical city, has unique position in the world. Delhi is really the representative of the history of Indian Empire. Delhi istruly an epitome of India. The history of Delhi is in fact the history of India. On December 12th. 1911, on the occassion of the Great Delhi Durbar, His Imperial Majesty King George V annouced the transfer of the seat of the Govern-ment of India from Calcutta to Delhi, and thus Delhi has restored to her ancient honour and proud position as the Imperial Capital of India.

Above all the 15th. August 1947 marks the dawning of a new era in India—the era of Independence which restored Delhi to its ancient glory and prestige as the “Capital of Free India.”

The area of Delhi with its surrounding territory is about 530 square miles. Its maximum length is 33 miles and breadth 30 miles consisting of a District and a Tahsil with 315 villages and 4 towns. According to the recent census ( 1941 ) the population of Delhi Province is 9,16,985 but we to transfer of population in the country ( it is now about 16,00,000 ( 1949 )

Here Mr. Shoosmith's remarks will be intres-

but by a new way of peace. The building of New Delhi has synchronised with India's experiment in constitutional Government; its completion coincides with a conference which should inaugurate a new epoch in its history."

Delhi has its own University which comprises of a law college; an art college, a commercial college, a medical college for ladies, higher secondary, middle and primary schools. There are a number of Hospitals and Dispensaries as well as Veterinary Hospitals maintained by Municipal and District Boards. The climate of Delhi is healthy and bracing. It experiences three principal seasons. The first commences in February and is characterised by a rising temperature and hot winds, the second by the middle of June and is characterised by rains. The last and the best begins from October and weather remains almost calm with cool north westerly winds causing the thermometer to drop to 47° F and even sometimes almost to freezing points.

Delhi is a very heavy junction of the East Indian, Bombay Baroda, including Rajputana Malwa, the East Punjab, Great Indian Peninsula



and Shahadara. Saharanpur Railways, connecting this city with every nook and' corner of India. Delhi is also the terminus of the Air mail service. An excellent Wellington Aerodrome is situated in New Delhi & Palam Aerodrome at Delhi Cantt. Delhi has devloped to be one of the greates centers of road transport:—cars, coaches, lorries, buses and rickshaws and conveyances of all descriptions are running at all hours in all directions and places. Electric Tramways run throughout Delhi.

The occupations and industries of Delhi are numerous. Among the chief factories there are a couple of cloth & flour mills, iron founderies, biscuit factories, brush work, metal factories, and Ice factories. The recent war has developed in Delhi industries, such as tents, *newar*. assemblage of motor parts for lorries. For centuries, the jewellery of Delhi has had a world-wide reputation—gold, silver and particularly jade, such as lockets, pendants and broocoos, veined with gold and set with precious stones in lovely designs. A British writer, Lt. Col H. A. Newell so rightly observes: "Whereas modern jewellery of this description is by no means unduly expensive, *Old Delhi work*, in cut and gem-encrusted jade, *described*

*as priceless.* The *babul* ornaments is another survival. It is pretty and of peculiar interest as proving that, although the Phoenician method of soldering gold in grains has long ranked amid the lost arts of Europe, it has continued to flourish in India to this day". An important industry is gold and silver embroidery, mostly on gorgeous materials, enriched with lovely needlework, are highly esteemed and command fancy prices. Another speciality is excellent carving on ivory and wood as well as weaving is still flourished.

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## CHAPTER II

# ARYAN HISTORY

### HINDU PERIOD

THE earliest accounts are supplied by the sacred literature of the Hindus, portions of which related to a time not less than 5,000 years ago commencing from celebrated Maharaja Dharitrashtya, who had a glorious kingdom. On his retirement he divided it, giving, Hastinapur, "The elephant city" to his sons the Kauravs and the the Indraprastha, to his nephews, the Pandavs. The Pandavs reign was the most magnificent kingdom imaginable and it represented the Golden age, *per excellence* Old Fort, Nigam Bodhghat and Rajghat are identified to be the only existing relic of the immortal Yudhishthira's reign.

The vast spread of time, from 1500 to 57 B.C. is extremely poor in historical records. There

is just a glimpse of two foreign attempts to conquer India. In the sixth Century B. C. the Persian king, Darius sent his best admiral, but there was little success and that of Alexander the great in 327 B. C. were without any tangible success.

However there are two landmarks of great historical interest. Firstly Maharaja Chandra Gupta's Maurya in 321-293 B.C. the celebrated Emperor of Maghddh. Megasthenes, the famous Greek ambassador remarked, "The inhabitants, having abundant means of subsistence, exceed in consequence the ordinary stature and are distinguished by their proud bearing. They are also found to be well skilled in arts, as might be expected of men who inhale pure air and drink the very fine-water. All the Indians are free and not one of them is a slave. The Indians do not even use aliens as slaves, and much less one of their own countrymen. They live frugally and observe very good order. Theft is a very rare occurrence, the simplicity of their law and their contracts is proved by the fact that seldom appeal to law. They have no suits about pledges or deposits, nor do they they require either seal or witness, but make deposits

and confide in each other. They neither put out money at usury nor know how to borrow. Truth and virtue they hold alike in esteem. In contrast to the general simplicity of their style, they love finery and ornaments. Their robes are worked in gold, adorned with precious stones, and they wear flowered garments of the finest muslin. Attendants walking behind them hold umbrellas over them; for they have a high regard for beauty and avail themselves of every device to improve their looks."

Secondly in the third century B. C., noble Maharaja Asoka, 'Beloved of God's' ruled Indraprasth. So great did his power become that his suzerainty was acknowledged from Bacteria to the Krishna river in the north and south. Buddhism prospered in his reign. He erected a series of pillars from Orissa to Kabul inscribed with his famous fourteen teachings of Buddhism. Of the Gupta period, the Golden age of the Indian history, the Chinese traveller, Fa-Hienu, "visited India in the fifth Century A. D., says thus: Throughout the country, no man kills any living, nor drink wine nor eat onions or garlicks. In this country, they do not keep pigs and fowls, there are no dealings

in cattle, no butcher shops or distilleries in their market places."

The name Delhi, was adopted after a famous old Maharaja from 57 B. C., to 693 A. D., Dilhi was under the sways of the Ujjain Empire. In about 607 A.D. a great monarch, ascended to the throne and ruled over Northern India upto Nepal. His capital was Thaneshwar, but, in all probability, Delhi, being so near, shared its glory and grandeur quite as well.

After an inglorious neglect Anangpal I rebuilt Delhi during his reign (663-681 A. D.) and repopled it from Kanauj, and of his glorious days Anangpal Road at Delhi is a poor but noble memorial. Later, Anangpal II entirely shifted his capital from Kanauj to Delhi in about 1052 A.D. and restored the historic town to its former glory. He built Lal Kot at Delhi. The only memorial of his glorious days is inscription on the Loh Stambh ( Iron Pillar ) at Delhi.

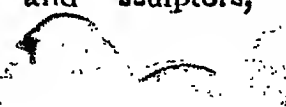
Maharaja Pirthvi Raj Chauhan or Rai Pithora of immortal fame, was the last great Hindu ruler of Delhi (1163-93). His principal memorial is the

Prithvi Lath which was styled afterwards Kutab Minar by Kutab-Din.

Unfortunately a fatal domestic quarrel arose between Prithvi Raj and Jai Chand, a Rathor Rajput of Kanauj. Raja Jai Chand announced the *Swaymber* ceremony (choice-marriage) of his beautiful daughter, Sanyukta. Kings and nobles from far and wide were invited by Jai Chand to do him homage on that auspicious occasion. The proud Prithvi Raj refused to come. At this, Jai Chand set out, in mockery, at the hall door, an ugly effigy of Prithvi Raj. The maiden, however was already in love with the far-famed Prithvi Raj. She scorned the brilliant kings assembled in the hall and threw the garland of her choice over the image of Prithvi Raj. Now, the brilliant Prithvi Raj, who was equally in love with her, was hiding nearby. At that very moment, he suddenly dashed out, placed the maiden on his saddle—bow and rode away to his capital. It is said that the ignoble Jai Chand out of mean revenge, urged the Mahammed Ghori to attack the noble Prithvi Raj, and this proved the cause of Mohammaden's success in India.

A few modern testimonies about the administration and civilisation of ancient India by well known scholars of established reputation will be certainly interesting, Sir Monier William remarks, "They had a polished language, a cultured literature and abstruse philosophy, centuries before the English even existed in name. They were so far advanced in religion, metaphysics, philosophy, science, art and music, that no other nation could stand as a rival or compete with them in any of these branches of knowledge." Mr. Rhys David remarks "There was security, there was independence, there were no landlords and no paupers and there was little, if any crime."

Mr. Thorton observes, "Ere yet, the pyramids looked down on the valley of the Nile,—when Greece and Italy, those cradles of European civilisation, nursed only tenants of a wilderness,—India was the seat of wealth and splendour. A busy population had covered the land with the marks of its industry, rich crops of the most coveted productions of nature annually rewarded the toil of husbandmen, skilful artisans converted the rude produce of the soil into the fabrics of unrivalled delicacy, beauty, architects and sculptors,





joined in constructing works, the solidity of which has not, in some instances, been overcome by the evolution of thousands of years."

However, coming to the subject again, the defeat of Prithvi Raj sounded the death—knell of the Hindu supremacy over Delhi. Nevertheless, his fame survives as well as that of his beautiful and high spirited wife, Sanjuncta, in the songs of bards and in numerous popular legends.



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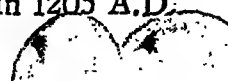
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### CHAPTER III

## MOHAMMADAN PERIOD

**T**HE City was in the occupation of the Hindus nearly upto 12th century, when it fell into the hands of the Mohammadans. Mohammed, son of Kasim organised the expedition against Dahir of Sind in 712 A.D. Sabubkatgin, king of Ghazni descended upon Anangpal about 979—the first Mohammendan invasion in the strict sense. Mahmud of Ghazni defeated Jaipal in 1001 A.D., plundered the country and returned with enormous booty but did not establish any rule of his own. It was Mohammad Ghori, the turk established the Mohammendan rule over Delhi, after several attempts, by defeating Prithvi Raj in 1192 A. D.

Mohammad returned two years later. As he left no son, his commender-in-chief Kutab-ud-Din Aibak styled himself as the Emperor in 1205 A.D.



His Dynasty is known as that of the slave kings. He was a stunch Muslim ruler. Masjids soon replaced the temples. Mohammad was worshiped in place of *Vishnu*, old godswere broken and their worshippers slain and the Muslim religion was forcibly enforced. The slave dynasty retained the throne till 1290, when it was subverted by Jalal-ud-Din-Khilji.

### **The Khiljis 1290—1320**

Jalal-ud-Din Khilji succeeded to the throne in 1290. The most remarkable monarch of this dynasty was Allauddin, during whose reign Delhi was twice exposed to attack from invading hards of Moghuls. He was a Muslim bigot and set to work to demolish Hindus, Budhist and Jain shrines and used their materials in the construction of Alia-Darwaza (still existing near Kutab Minar), the fort of Siri and the unfinished Kutab Minar II (Alai Minar). He expired in 1315. Four rulers succeeded to the throne in quick succession but all were brutally murdered. The house of Khilji came to an end in 1320 and was followed by that of Tughlak.

### **The Tughlaks(1320—1412)**

Ghias-ud-Din Mohammad Tughlak restored

the Muslim rule in 1320. He built a new capital which he called Tughlakabad. Five years later, his son, Mohammed Tuglak murdered him, and succeeded to the throne. The king had curious mixture of bad and good qualities as he was capable and intelligent on the one hand and recklessly cruel and bad tempered on the other. He is known as the bloody king. His successor Firoz Shah was mild and differed from his predecessor as day from night. He transferred the Capital to a new town which is some miles off, on the north of Kutab and to which he gave his own name Firozabad. Soon after his death, domestic quarrels arose among his sons for the throne and weak kings ruled till 1414 when the dynasty was totally dismembered. During such vicissitudes, the dreaded Tamerlane of Turkistan felt upon the doomed Capital on December 24, 1391, made a public massacre, slayed and burnt, the Hindus of Delhi making it a smouldering ruin.

### **The Sayyids (1414—1451)**

After the Tughlaks, the Sayyids succeeded to the throne of Delhi in 1414 and of their line four kings ruled successively till 1451, when they gave to the house of Lodi.

### **The Lodis 1451—1517**

In 1451, Bahlol Lodi established the line of Lodi. In his reign, Delhi was brought much to its former grandeur and glory. His successor Sikandar Lodi (1488-1517) was a religious bigot. In his reign Hindus had no freedom in their religion. The last king Ibrahim II was defeated by the Moghuls headed by Baber at Panipat in 1526 epoch and a turning point from which the Moghul supremacy commenced in India.

### **The Moghul 1526—1530**

Mohammed Zahir-ud-Din, better known by his subriquet of Baber, the tiger, being driven from his heritage, became by his powers, the king of Afghanistan and Badakhshan in 1504 A. D. He advanced towards India with a small army, and in a bloody battle on the plain of Panipat the last king of the Lodi dynasty was killed and Delhi became subject to the Moghuls and Baber proclaimed himself as the Emperor of India. Three years later on his death; his son Humayun, succeeded to the throne at the age of nineteen in 1530. During his reign, Sher Shah his most powerful rival marched against him and after a prolonged struggle, Humayun was compelled to fly for his

life. During his escape across the Sindh desert, his famous son Akbar was born in October, 1542 in the little fortress of Umarkot. Afterwards he sought the protection of the king of Persia, where he lived for 4 years and later on for nine years he waited at Kabul.

### **The Suris 1539—1554.**

After the defeat of Humayun Sher Shah Suri ruled Northern India, from Delhi with his Capital Shergarh otherwise known as Old Fort. He was a ruler of great abilities ever known. He introduced the revenue system which was so good that it was adopted by Akbar. After six years of wise administration, he met his end by a powder explosion at the siege of Kalinager. The conditions became bad and the empire fell to pieces. This gave the exiled emperor Humayun the chance to regain the lost throne.

### **The Moghuls 1555—1837.**

Humayun after a lapse of fifteen years, Humayun again came to India to regain his lost position and defeated Suris in 1555, but did not enjoy it for long time as he died in 1556, on account of a fatal wound received in falling down from a staircase.

in his palace. His mausoleum still stands at Delhi, built by his wife near Old Fort known as Humayun's Tomb.

### Akbar

Akbar, at the time of his father's death was only a boy of fourteen when he was crowned in 1556. With the aid of his able ministers, both Hindus and Mohammadans, Akbar purified the administration of justice, enjoined absolute tolerance in religious matters. He established Sher Shah's revenue system, abolished *Sattee* (widow burning) and took off the *Jaziya* (Tax) which was imposed upon those who did not embrace Islam. He established a consolidated and powerful Empire, Akbar introduced a new religion called *Din-i-Illahi* or 'Divine faith', in which he recognised one God, the maker of the Universe, and himself as vicegerent on earth. He, too, was a great lover of fine buildings and a liberal patron of artists. After a glorious reign, he died in 1605 and was buried in the mausoleum at Sikandra (Agra).

### Jahangir.

Jahangir, the son of Akbar, was born in 1570 and succeeded to the throne in 1605. In 1611, he

married the celebrated Nur Jahan (the light of the world). As Emperor, he was too fond of wine, opium and delicacies, — neglected his state affairs, and it was the Empress who actually ruled. The Persian lady, pretty and witty, clever and accomplished, was the widow of one of his Generals. She conferred with the ministers and put her name on gold coins and state documents. However, the most important political event of Jahangir's reign was the arrival of Sir Thomas Roe in 1615. The first English ambassador visited and the granting of a *farman* to an English Company for establishing a factory at Surat was done.

### Shahjahan.

Prince Khurram was crowned in 1628, after his father's death, under the title of Shahjahan. His whole character, whole reign, and in fact his whole life, were dominated by his passionate love for his wife, Mumtaz Mahal, the celebrated lady of the Taj, buried at the world famous Tajmahal, Agra. Shahjahan's subjects were quite happy. According to Elphinston, "Shahjahan's greatest splendour was shown in his buildings." His masterpieces are the celebrated Taj Mahal of Agra and the two marvellous monuments — Red Fort



and Jama Masjid—of Shahajahanbad, the seventh and last Muslim city, the present Delhi Shahjahan fell suddenly ill in 1557, and believing that he would not recover, a quarrel arose (immediately after his illness) between his four sons for the throne. Aurangzeb, the youngest, usurped the throne and imprisoned his father at Agra where he died in 1665, and was buried by the side of his beloved wife in the Taj Agra.

### Aurangzeb

Aurengzeb proclaimed himself as the Emperor of India in 1658, under the title of Alamgir or 'Conqueror of the World'. He destroyed a number of famous Hindu Temples at Benares, Muttra, and other places, with their materials built several mosques. He also closed the schools for Hindus, burnt and destroyed libraries and ancient books. and received the *Jaziya* most invidious pool-tax from non mohammadans. The Marathas under Shivaji rose in the Deccan in his reign. He died at Ahamdanagar in 1707 after a long reign of 50 years and buried in an ordinary mausoleum.

### Others.

By Aurangzeb's will the Empire was to be

divided among his three surviving sons, but none was satisfied. After this, several kings ruled over Delhi but none had power to control the vast empire. The power of the empire was declining mainly owing to the attacks of the Marahatas and that of the invade by Nadir Shah from North West in 1739, who returned with enormous wealth together with the world famous Peacock Throne. The thirteenth Emperor Ahmad Shah and his successors, were usually sovereigns only in name.

## BRITISH

Sir Thomas Roe was the first English ambassador to the Court of Jahangir at Agra, and was permitted to establish an English factory at Surat. The East India Company came to Madras in the reign of Shahjahan and built the Fort St. George there; at Calcutta Fort William was built in 1690. It is worthy to mention that Clive was the real founder of the British Empire in India (1744-76). The victory of Plassey in 1757 founded the British power in Northern India. Warren Hasting (1772-86) steered the ship of British Empire safely through a time of unexampled storm and stress. Further, Marquis, Wellesley's work is memor-

able. He put an end to the aggressive Mohamadan kingdom in the south, crippled the Maratha power, rooted out the antagonistic French influence and added a large amount of territory to the company's dominions. Lord Lake's victory at Delhi in 1803 was the most important step towards the spread of British power in Northern India. The successful suppression of the Indian Mutiny of 1857 marked the complete consolidation of the British Empire in India.

### **The Indian Mutiny of 1857**

The Indian Mutiny of 1857 is the most remarkable event in the British history of Delhi. Early in 1857, the new Enfield rifles were introduced into the Indian army; and disaffection immediately spread abroad on an absurd report that the cartridge issued had been greased with the fat of pigs and cows to defile both the Hindus and Mohammadans, and the British had a plot to enforce christian faith on them. Religious devotees who saw their influence waning with the spread of western ideas and education, eagerly joined including the sepoys of rebellion. The Mohammadans found this time a good opportunity to establish Mohammadan rule over Northern India

The first open act of mutiny occurred at Brampur and on Sunday, the 10th May, 1857, the mutiny broke out in all its horror at Meerut. The native troops of Meerut were first to mutiny. They killed their officers, plundered houses of Europeans and having set fire to the station they reached Delhi the next morning, and being joined by the rabble from the bazar, they murdered every European whom they could find, men, women and children, plundered and burnt the station. The trouble began at the Calcutta Gate by the fort, and Mr. Fraser, the commissioner Hutchinson, the Collector Captain Douglas, the commandment of the palace guards, the Presidency chaplain were killed. Sir Theo Metcalf, the Magistrate escaped in time. Then the sepoy's rushed to the apartments of Reverend Mr. Jennings and put him to sword with his daughter and friends. The British troops in cantonments consisted of three regiments of native infantry and a battery of artillery. These joined the mutineers, and killed their officers. The Delhi Magazine, then the largest in the north west India was in charge of Lt. Willoughby. The mutineers attacked it by means of scaling ladders surmounting the walls.

This was finally blown up when its defence was seen practically difficult. Willoughby escaped, but died of his wounds at Meerut.

Bahadur Shah proclaimed himself Emperor of India, and his sons held prominent positions in the military. The seizure of the Moghul Capital by the rebels was the prelude in the general revolt in Northern India. The muntineers held the Metcalf house on Alipore Road with great advantage against the British besieging forces until, they were outstated. The siege nominally commenced on the 8th of June, when Sir H. Barnard, after a severely contested battle, besieged the Ridge near Delhi, but it was not till the 7th of September that the besiegers were strong enough to commence operations in earnest. The force consisted merely 3000 men and were mdae inadequate for a siege as the rebels troops numbered over 30,000. But on the 14th August reinforcement arrived from the Pnnjab under the dashing and determined soldier, Brigadier Nicholson. The points of attack were the Kashmir bastions, the water bastion, Lahore Gate and the Kashmere Gate. The fortifications were stormed on the 14th September and after incessant house to housefight-

ing for six days, the whole city was captured on the 20th, but loss was, heavy and worst of all, the brave Nicholson, had fallen mortally wounded at the head of the storming party. His death was a great loss to the British Empire. He lived, however, to learn that the whole city had been recaptured.

The rebels were driven out and Delhi was won. Bahadur Shah with his family took refuge at Humayun's Tomb, and they were captured by Major Hudson. His sons and grandsons who had personally assisted in the massacres and rebellion, were summarily executed by Major Hudson, with his own hands. The old king Bahadur Shah was subsequently brought to trial. He was skillfully defended and the trial lasted from January 27th to March 9th, but he was found guilty of murder, treason and arson and sentenced to be transported for life to Rangoon.

During the siege the British forces sustained a loss of 1012 officers and men killed, and 3837 wounded. The shattered walls of the Kashmere Gateway and bastions of the northern faces of the city still bear the marks of the cannonade of September 1857. The G

India Company was abolished and British India was placed under the direct control of the Crown by an act of Parliament.

Other memorable events in the history of Delhi are Lord Lytton's Durbar of 1877, Lord Curzon's Durbar of 1903 the Royal Durbar in 1911 of his Majesty the King & Emperor George V which restored Delhi to its ancient glory and prestige as the Capital of India. The greatest hour for Delhi was on the 15th August 1947 at 0' hour, when the Capital of many mighty empires becomes for the first time in its history the seat of *Lok Raj*—Government of the people, by the people and for the people.

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## CHAPTER III

### NEW DELHI

**T**HE New Capital or New Delhi is a fine specimen of the Royal splendeur. It lies to the south of the present Delhi, only 2 miles far from its city walls. It is the finest existing specimen of combined architectural style. It is the work of British architects and engineers and is a symbol of peace, justice and orderly Government which forms Britain's gift to India.

Soon after the proclamation of his Majesty, King George V at Delhi Durbar in 1911, active preparations were set afoot for the building of the 'New Capital' New Delhi. Many investigations for the selection of a suitable site were carried on and inspite of the town planning committee for the purpose every effort was in vain. At last Lord Harding personally rode about in trying weather and came to a spot near the *Samadhi* of Guru



Teg Bahadur, the noble Sikh martyr. It is said by some traditions that, it was the very spot from, where in 1391, the terrible Taimur, *the dreaded* Tamerlane of European historians, a direct descendant of that formidable warrior, Changez Khan watched the horrible invasion of the doomed Delhi. It was the selfsame spot where a dreaded Taimur, with a stony heart even at the age of sixty-three, dictated the public massacre of 1,00,000 Hindus, whose heads were heaped up to construct a triumphal pyramid, in order to strike terror into the hearts of the population. Seeing such a historical site, the Viceroy was very pleased and declared "This is the site of Government House"

After the strenuous labour of eighteen years the rugged grounds turned into charming gardens. The work of construction was entrusted to two of the greatest British architects of world wide fame, Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker. Seldom since Roman time, has an architect had a like opportunity to start with a clean sheet of paper and bring into being, a city, conceived from the first as a unified whole. Petersburg, Washigton and Cenberra are probbrly the only paralled cases.

The building materials were collected from far and wide, the wood from Burma, Bombay and C. P. and red sand stone from Bharatpur, Dholpur and other states. Marble was obtained from Jodhpur, Baroda, Jaisalmer. Kotah, Jhalwar and Baisalan and so was the case with other materials. The bricks alone, about 700 millions were used in the building of New Delhi. The stoneyard in which the stone was prepared was the largest in the world. From one end of the stoneyard where the rough stone was delivered from the railway line to other end where it passed by rail to the buildings, the stoneyard measured about 2,000 feet and its area was 22 acres. The labour employed in the building of New Delhi numbered at times 29,000. In New Delhi alone, there are over 50 miles of excellent roads each named after famous persons like Anangpal, Ashoka. Prithviraj, Akbar, Shahajahan, Roberts, King Edward etc. In brief the New Capital was finally completed at a cost of about fourteen crores of rupees and on Febuary 11th., 1931 was formally inaugurated. A New Cantonment in New Delni was also built.

A few remarks of some experts from the books of authors on Delhi, I hope will be interesting to the readers.

Sir Henry Sharp, C.S. I., C. I. E. writes (*Delhi its story and buildings 1928 P. 169*), "The achievements of Sir Edward Lutyens, Sir Herbert Baker and of the staff, of Government Engineers headed by Sir Hugo Keeling eclipse in splendour and solidity .....A dignified restraint of outline, a wealth of rich details in portico, window balcony and cupola; the contrast of red sandstone and white marble the stately courtyards, the soaring domes and campaniles—all these present a miraculous picture which few, if any, of the architectural work of man can rival.....Such is the eighth city of Delhi surpassing its predecessors in magnificence and in the great ideals, which it symbolizes—the blending of oriental art and achievement with the sterner influences of the west.

Mr. Shoomith, an expert architect writes (*I S. Py.Mag.*), 'Heir to so much, New Delhi rightly looks to the past and does its honour treasuring a splendored inheritance. Shrines, tombs, mosques, monuments of bygone greatness have been rescued from decay and their setting beautified. Roads and avenues bear the names of ancient kings and of others, famous in Indian History. The new buildings wear the sandstones and marble garb

of their predecessors, wrought faithfully to tradition.....Yet with at New Delhi is born in a modern age, a truly modern city, thrice blessed at birth. With history came forth Art and Science, bringing their gifts to its Cradle. Art gave it symmetry and order; its well balanced plan, a broad body with a noble head and straight clan limbs of roads stretching across the plain, and last but not least its magnificent buildings in a splendour of design that few cities can rival. Science brought wide spaces and regional planning, health—giving sanitation and construction that will endure”.

Sir Alexander Rouse C. I. E., observes thus :  
“In its earliar stages, the New Capital was faimiliarly called “Raisina” and its Critics condemned it ‘The Desert city’. Those who now see it for the first time with its great variety of flourishing avenues, stretches of grass and wellgrown gardens, would with difficulty realise that it once deserved this name. The credit for the cenversion of the desert into a smiling garden is due to the officers of the Horticultural Department. However I certainly deplore the existence of those carping critics who even now, with all the wonderful achivements of the builder of the Imperial Capital, in a gloomy voice declare it as “The Desert City”

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## CHAPTER IV

### THE FORT

#### PLACES OF INTEREST

**T**his massive and magnificent fort was built by the most famous Moghul Emperor, Shahjhan. It is situated on the right bank of the river Jumna on the eastern side of the city of Delhi. The Great Emperor after the first eleven years of his reign at Agra decided to transfer his Capital again to Delhi owing to the excessive heat of Agra which was quite unfit for Royal residence of a Emperor, unlevelled ground of the city and want of space in the Fort.

After paying several visits to Delhi, the Emperor chose with the help of the wise astrologers and *Hakims* (Saintists) a site on the mainland just south of Salimgarh. The foundation

stone of the massive fort was laid on the 12th. *Zhilhijeh* 1048 A. H. ( 1638 A. D. ) and this date is corroborated by the inscriptions on the Khawab-gah. The construction of the fort took 10 years and about 10 millions or 1 crore of rupees.

In those days the labour was so cheap as to have no comparison with that of the present days, huge labour and material expenses.

In 1648 A. D. when the Emperor's new Grand palace was quite ready for the Royal reception, Mukramat Khan Superintendent of the works applied to the Emperor to come and see it. On the 24th *Rabi* II of 1058 A. H. (1648 A. D.) Emperor Shahjahan entered the fort by the gate facing river Jumna and held his first Royal Court in the Diwan-i-Am ( House of Commons ).

The Emperor Shahjahan arrived at the fort with a gorgeous magnificence retwine, Prince Dara Shikoh scattered gold and silver coins over his father's head till he reached the gate. All the Palace buildings were decorated, and the courtyard covered with gorgeous. Persian carpets and golden silks curtains. The building became the envy of the Art Galleries of China. The roofs,

and colonades of Diwan-i-Am were wrapped with fine velvet, Kashmir shawls and fine China silks.

Mukramat Khan Superintendent of the work under whose supervision Fort and its buildings were completed received the high rank of the *Panj Hazari*.

The shape of the Fort is an irregular octagonal in plane, with its two long sides on the east and west and six smaller ones on the north and south. It measures some one mile and a half in circumference the total length being 3,000 feet and the breadth 1800 feet. The walls towards the river front are 60 feet in height, while on the land side they rise to 110 feet, of which 75 feet are above the level of the ground. The ditch is 75 feet wide and 30 feet deep.

The fort was formerly the palace of Shahjahan and possessed great splendour and grandeur in his days. Bernier, Manucci, Fergusson and other tourists had written sufficient on the excellence of the Fort. According to Fergusson, "This was the most magnificent palace in the east or perhaps in the world." But after the splendid days of Shahjahan the fort underwent many vicissitudes; in 1719 it was greatly damaged by an earthquake

shocks; in 1739 the Persian invader, Nadir Shah, carried off the famous Peacock Throne together with palace treasures; in 1759 serious havoc was wrought by Marhatta assaults; in 1798 it was invaded by Rohilla and finally after the Indian Mutiny of 1857, minor courts, connecting corridors, several buildings and gardens were demolished, and barracks were built in place of them by the English.

The fort though greatly reduced in size and splendour since the days of the mutiny is worth a careful visit as it still possesses some remarkably interesting buildings—such as Diwan-i-Am, Kang Mahal, Moti Masjid, Private Apartments, Hammam, Diwan-i-Khas, Shah Burj and others.

There are two principal gates to the fort. Lahore gate and Delhi gate. Besides these two principal gates there are three more gates and two windows of minor importance and particular interest attacks to one of these which leads into Salimgarh and through it His Imperial Majesty King Emperor George V passed when on his way to the Imperial Durbar of 1911 on 6th December in the Royal Robes of Field Marshal.



## Lahore Gate

The gate is of imposing design and contains three storeyed rooms. The entrance arch, 41 feet in height and 24 feet in width. The centre of the facade above the gate is emphasised by a row of draf coupled *Ohhalris*. Aurangzeb erected barbicans 40 feet high, as an additional protection of the gate. It is recorded that regarding these barbicans Shahjahan wrote in a letter from Agra while he was in prison, to his son Aurangzeb "You have made the Fort a bride, and set a veil before her face".

In 1857 this gate was the scene of the murder of Mr. Fraser, Captain Douglas, the Rev. Mr. Jennings, the Chaplain, his daughter, and many others.

## Delhi Gate

The Delhi gate is similar in design to Lahore Gate but it has a spiciality that there stands two Black mighty stone elephants on eachside of the entrance arch which were set up by the order of Lord Curzon in 1903.

## Naubat-Khana

Passing through the Lahore Gate you will find

yourself beneath the vaulted hall, the sides of which are in two storeys and with an octagonal break in the centre. This is the famous Chatta Chowk which was once the centre of the richest wares in the east. It is 27 feet in the width and 267 feet in length. In front, at the entrance, was the Naubat Khana or Imperial Drum-house where the Royal band used to play with great pomp and splendour. The Naubat Khana is a double storeyed building measuring some 108 feet by 68 feet and 39 feet 4 inches in height. Beyond this place none could pass mounted except the Emperor and princess of Royal blood.

### **Diwan-i-Am**

Passing through the entrance of the Naubat Khana the visitors reach the court of Diwan-i-Am ( hall of public Audience ) or the Durbar Hall. Its original court yard was 550 feet long and 300 feet wide. It consists of a hall some 80 feet long by 40 feet in breadth and 30 feet high, supported by red sandstone pillars and enclosed by arcades cloisters brilliantly gilt and decorated with brightly painted shell plaster.

### **The Throne**

*baldachino* known as the Nashiman Zill-i-Ilahi or the seat of shadow of God but more commonly known as *Jharoka*. Here the Mughal Emperor used to sit daily for a couple of hours in the Public Durbar. Below the throne is a marble dias measuring some 7 feet by 3 feet, here the Mughul *Wazier* Prime Minister used to sit. In front of the throne of wazier, was a silver fencing measuring 40 feet by 30 feet reserved for the highest nobles of the Empire or members of the House of Lords, the Rajas and the foreign Ambassadors and the remaining portion of Diwan-i-Am reserved was for the other high officials. The outer platform known as *Gulal-Bari* was reserved for minor officials, and the general public attending the Durbar used to stand before the platform.

### The Pietra Dura

The Pietra Dura work of the walls of Nashiman Zill-i-Ilahi is worth seeing. The original work is said to have been executed by Austin de Bordeaux, a renegade European the favourite of Emperor Shah Jahan. Jewels and designs represented flowers, fruits and birds in a most natural manner. In 1857 at the time of Mutiny a good many of these panels which were quite small

were picked out and mutilated. When the British took possession of the palace every one seems to have looted after the most independent fashion. Among others, captain Jones afterwards Sir John tore up a great part of this platform but had the happy idea to get his loot set in a marble as table tops. Twelve of them including the representation of orphans as well as 4 large and 7 smaller panels he brought home and sold to the Government for £500, who deposited them in the South Kensington Museum. A strong appeal for the recovery of these panels was made in 1902 by the Government of India and the trustee of the Museum were kind enough to agree to their return but the Plaques reached India after the Lord Curzon's Durbar in 1903 and they had been replaced behind the throne at the same place at the instance of Lord Curzon.

### Rang Mahal

Rang Mahal (colour palace) so called from the decoration with which it was formerly adorned. The building measuring 153 feet 6 inches by 69 feet 3 inches was once sacred to the Imperial seraglis. It is mainly composed of white marble although the outward appearance of the structure

is some what somber in character, the interior is conspicuous with its five marble dadoes and gilded ceiling and summits of arches. In the glorious days of Shahjahan Rang Mahal was styled Imtiyaz Mahal (place of distinction) and it is said that the original ceiling of the building was of silver and ornamented with golden flowers. But under Furrukhsiyar gold and silver were stripped and melted down.

In the centre of the hall is a tank some 21 feet square with a fountain in the centre. The tank is made of marble. It is just like a palm of a hand and its inlay of flowers and foliage in various coloured stones had been so finally executed that it is beyond the power of any one to describe it. In the back wall of this building which is toward east is pierced by five windows overlooking the river and from here the princess and Begums and ladies of the harem watched the elephant and wild beasts fighting shows which helds in the sandy ground.

### **Diwan-i-Khas**

The Diwan-i-Khas or the hall of special Audience was also known as the Shah Mahal

(Ryal palace) is a magnificent pavilion of white marble standing on a raised platform. The hall is 90 feet by 67 feet stands on a plinth  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. The Central Chamber measures some 48 feet by 27 feet. Its flat ceiling is supported by engrailed arches and central apartment by thirty two richly carved pillars inlaid with precious gems. The original ceiling of the building was of silver ornamented with gold valued by the French Jeweller, Tavernier, at 75million francs, which was looted and melted down by Marhathas and Jats in 1760. The present wooden ceiling with golden painting was replaced afterwards. This was visited in 1820 by Lt. Col. Farrest who remarked, "In the centre was the throne on which the Emperor sat and near it was a block of purest crystal, 4 feet long 3 feet wide and 2 feet deep, the most beautiful stone ever seen."

It is written on the roof of this hall that, "If there is heaven on the earth, it is this, it is this, it is this."

In this hall was the world renown Peacock Throne. According to *Badshah Nama* this heaven like throne was completed in seven years and the cost estimated was six and a half million pounds

sterling having Jewells worth not less than eighty lakhs of rupees, with one ruby alone worth a lakh of rupres. A little account about the throne will interest my readers. It was the peacock throne from its having the figures of two peacocks of solid gold so blended with sapphires, rubies, pearls emeralds and other valuable stones of appropriate colours that they almost correctly depicted living birds. The throne it self was 6 feet by 4 feet; It stood on six massive feet made of solid gold inlaid with diamonds, rubbies and emeralds. It was surmounted by a canopy of gold supported by twelve emerald pillars and a fringe of pearls ornamented the borders. Further wonders were a tree of jewells and parrot carved out of a single emerald. This magnificent throne was carried off to Persia by Nadir Shah as a reward of his invasion of India on 9th Febuary, 1739 and it is said that in Teheran it was melted down.

It was to Diwan-i-Khas, that Emperor Shahjahan retired after the mid-day Durbar, for confidential discussions with the privileged few. Here too he held his evening court. Fergusson remarked, "It is, if not the most beatiful, certainly the most highly ornamented of all Shahjahan's buildings".

## Khas Mahal.

Khas Mahal, the Emperor's private apartments. Facing the Diwa-i-Khas is a set of three apartments, communicating with one another, **Tashbi Khana** or the house of worship by the telling of leads, **Khwabghah** or (dream chamber) or bed chamber and **Baithak** or place of social intercourse or conversation House. Of these Khwa-bghah is the largest being 45 feet by 18 feet consisted of a suite of three rooms, the walls being inlaid with precious stones and further ornamented by beautifully carved screens Von orlick who visited Delhi in 1843 describes it thus. "As we entered the hall which lead to the king's apartments, we saw a rhapsodist, who was sitting before the Bed Chamber of the Great Moghul, and relating tales in a loud voice and a curtain was hung between him and the king who was lying on a couch and for whome these tales were to lull to sleeps". According to the admirable suggestion of Mr. W. H. Hailey, once the Commissioner of Delhi, two rooms of the Emperor's private apartments had been refurnished in Moghul style exactly as they must have been in olden days. The Baithak and the Tashbi Khana were also



adorned with the most beautiful carved marble work richly inlaid with precious stones. Near the Khawbgah is a most beautiful marble screen inscribed with the scale of justice. Its screen is the excellent one and is worth seeing.

### **Hammam**

On the northern side of Diwan-i-khas is the Hammam or Royal Baths. The two small rooms at either sides are said to have been used for children of the Royal family. There are three main apartments divided by passages. The first room facing the river was a dressing room. It contains two fountain basins, one for the rose water being of special interest and the other one perfumed with nice lavenders. The second apartment has a central basin for hot and cold water and the third apartment used for the hot baths only. Light was admitted to these apartments by stained glass windows of the type seen in the eastern most apartment. The heating apparatus is built in the west wall. All are beautifully lined with marble inlaid with precious stones.

It is said that the baths were never warmed after the reign of Shahjahan, and further said that 125 munds of fire-wood was required to heat them.

The Moti Masjid or Pearal Mosque was built in 1622 by Emperor Aurengzeb, the successor and the son of Shahjahan. It was used as a private chapel by the Emperor, and the female members of the Royal family also attended prayers here. The mosque is very beautifully built of white marble on a plinth of 3½ feet high measuring some 40 feet by 30 feet and 25 feet high standing within a courtyard enclosed by red sand stone walls. The original domes were of heavily gilt copper which were destroyed by gun shots during the Mutiny of 1857 and the present marble domes were made after the Mutiny. The bronze gate of the mosque is worth seeing.

### **Samman Burj**

The Samman Burj abjoining the eastern wall of the Khawabgah is a projecting marble pavilion overlooking the river-bank. Formerly it was styled as *Burj-i-Tilla* or Golden Tower, from the fact that its cupola was once cased with heavily gilt tower and now covered with lime plaster. In the Moghul time it was here that the Emperor came daily at dawn to salute the rising sun and in turn received the salutation of his subjects. In a court

where an Emperors life was in bourly danger such a ceremony was the sign by which his subjects knew that he was really alive.

It is intresting to note that the same kind of ceremony was received at the Coronation Durbar 1911, Their Imperial Majesties, King George V and Queen Marry, appeared from the balcony of Saran Burj, to the waiting crowd gathering on the low ground between the Fort and the river.

### **Mumtaz Mahal**

It is now used as the Delhi Museum of Archaeological, Department was once formed part of the Harem. After the Mutiny it was used as a military prison and sergeant's mess, and owing to these reasons its original appeance has been changed. The building measures some 88 feet by 82 feet.

### **The Sawan & Bhadon**

The "Sawan" is a water pavilion named after the first month of rainy season corresponding to July and August. In the centre of the pavilion was a tank. In the niches around the tank and behind the cascade lighted tapers were set in the night and flower in vases by day. It was most pleasant to witness the fall of the water in the niches.

The "Bhaddon" is named after the second month of rainy season corresponding from August to September. It is a beautiful water pavilion built of white marble like "Sawan".

### **Nahar-i-Bihisht**

Passing from the Shah Burj through the Hammam, Diwan i Khas, Khawbgah and Rang Mahal, in all of these canals the most favoured and famous was the Nahr-i-Bihisht and the water was taken from Ali Mardans canal to the fort topping the Jamna river some six miles above from Delhi, to obtain the necessary fall fed the palace with many streams of water which filled the tanks and played the fountains Pipping over the marble, it added to the soft lusciousness of the buildings and to their coolness in the hot days.

### **Hayat Bakhsh Garden.**

Hayat Bakhsh Garden, ( Life Bestowing Garden) which by the display of its charming flower beds, of the various green plants, and blessed flowers, by the running water marble channels facing the garden, and fountains. The tank in its centre, 120 feet square, shines a sun like mirror with its waving light and it is decorated with 49 silver jets, beside 112 more which played round it. Opposite to it adjoining Royal Baths is a small structure called Hira Mahal otherwise Barah-Dari, where the Mughal Emperor used to enjoy the river sence. Next is Shah Burj or King's Tower.

The centre of North wall is occupied by a marble water case of pleasing design, which slopes into a 'Scolloped' marble basin.

### **Fort Museums**

There are two museums in the Fort, the Indian War Memorial and the Delhi Museum of Archeaological. The former lies at the upper storey of Naubat Khana Gate. Here pictures and photos, arms and ammunition, curios, stamps, etc. may be seen.

The latter stands in Mumtaz Mahal about 35 yards towards south of Rang Mahal. Here, specimens of old manuscripts, dress, swords, pictures, books and many other things are exhibited.

### **Salim Garh**

To the west of the Fort not very far is situated Salimgarh. The whole circuit of its walls being about three quarters of a mile. It was built in 1546 by Salim Shah son and successor of Sher Shah, the conqueror of Humayun. Jahangir in 1621 connected this strong hold with the Mcghul citadel (Red Fort) by means of a bridge, which was demolished to make way for the present E. P. Railway bridge. During the reign of Aurangzeb, Salimgarh served the purpose of a state prison. It was here, in August, 1788, that the helpless Emperor Shah Alam was imprisoned after being blinded by the Rohilla brigand Ghulam Qadir.

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## JAMA MASJID

**T**HE Jama Masjid or Great mosque, is situated about a quarter mile from the Red Fort. It is most famous mosque in India, and regarded as one of the largest mosques in the world and is rivalled only by that at Fatehpur Sikri, Agra. It was built by Emperor Shahjahan and finally finished in 1658 by Aurangzeb at a cost of ten lakhs of rupees and for five years no less than 5000 masons were daily employed in it. It was repaired in 1817 and 1851, and in 1900 the Nawab of Rampur spent more than Rs. 100,000 in further repair.

It is built of red sandstone and white marble. It is some 200 feet in length, 120 feet in width and the central portion of the dome is 201 feet in height and is flanked by two minars, 130 feet high built in alternate vertical strieps of red sandstone and white marble. Each minar is possessing 130 steps. From here a bird's eye view of a wild expanse of the country dotted here and there with trees and beautiful gardens is available. There are three gateways, the east gateway being the largest, which is considered a "Royal Entrance." In the middle of the courtyard is a tank with a beautiful fountain.

When the Moghul court was in place at

Delhi it was the Emperor's custom to attend the Jama Masjid in state every morning. The Emperor commemorated the sacrifice of Abraham by slaughtering a camel on the occasion of the Id festival. Still today particularly on the principal days of worship the mosque becomes a congregation of immense of Mohammadans bowing and prostrating themselves in the main courtyard and in the great plain in front of the mosque.

The sacred relics of the mosque stored in a room in the north west arm of the courtyard are to be seen the prophet Mohammed including one hair from his beard, his sandal and the imprint of his foot on stone and a chapter of the Koran written by Hazrat Ali and one by Hazrat Immam Husain. Here Sir Henry Sharp remark will interest the readers "But the architect has in truth produced a harmonious whole out of the square, uncompromising exterior, relieved by its generous breadth, and the fairy-like effects which blossom above it. Whether the eye concentrates on the massive outlines and proportion of the exterior, the great court, 400 feet each way, or on the western face with its white marble panelling, its domes and its minarets, or whether it takes the general effect made up by

these features, the mosque stands out as a great epitome of Indo-Saracenic art, its design lavish, well proportioned and imperial in its dimensions, its features blending Islamic severity with a magical delicacy of grace".

### CONNAUGHT PLACE

Connaught place, which could with better reasons be more appropriately styled as "Connaught Circus". It is situated in New Delhi not very far from Modern Delhi. This is to commemorate the memory of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, who visited India in 1920. It is indeed the most fashionable shopping centre of the Imperial Capital and is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful spot in the world so beautifully planned and so well built. Many institutions are settled here. It is circular in appearance, consisting of the inner circle and the outer circle. The radius of the inner circle is about 947 feet. The outer road is 160 feet wide and the service road is 52 feet wide.

In the centre there is a band stand surrounded by a fair ring of beautiful lawn. Though Connaught Circus appears circular close observation shows that it is more like a horse-shoe.



## JANTER MANTER

The Jantar Manter called in other words an Observatory placed in the heart of New Delhi, just close to Connaught Place. The Observatory consist of six different structures just representing a puzzle to the mind of a man.

The Observatory was built in about 1724 by the best astronomer of the time, Maharaja Jai Singh II of Amber, the founder of the famous city of Jaipur in compliance with the request of the Emperor Mohmamad Shah. Although the original design was never completed, quite enough was done to prove considerable astronomical skill. As an evidence there of the great equatorial dial still stands. Its unusual diamensions have gained of it the title of *Samarat Yantra* literally meaning Prince Dial. A flight of steps to its top. The hypotenuse is 118 feet 7 inches, its base 104 feet 1 inch and its prependicular 56 feet 4 inches. There are two small dials and a Concave of a stone work 27 feet 5 inches in diameter, representing the celestials hemisphere. It shows the greatest outcome of the mind of the greatest methamatician as well as it is the speciman of the high class architecture. There marvels are designed for

observing the sun's azimuth as well as the lunar and stellar attitudes and Azimuths. Maharaja Jai Singh II also built the same style of observations at Jaipur, Benares, Ujjain and Muthra.

The Delhi Janter Manter suffered some damage during the several invasions on India but it was recently restored by the Maharaja of Jaipur in honour of His Majesty's visit to Delhi in 1911.

### **BIRLA TEMPLE**

The Hindu Temple of modern time built in New Delhi would do honour to any city. This is a grand specimen of the best of the old Aryan religion as conceived and adjusted to modernism. It has been built at a cost of several lakhs of rupees for Shri Sanatan Dharam Sabha, New Delhi by the philanthropic Raja Baldeo Das Birla in 1938. The foundation stone was laid by Maharana Udai Bhan Singh of Dholpur on 26th March 1933. The opening ceremony was performed by Mahatama Gandhi on the 18th March, 1939, and its installation ceremony was performed by the famous Pandit Visheo Nath Acharya from Hindu University assisted by many other honoured pandits.

The temple contains seprate temples for Shri

Lakshmi Narain in the middle, God Shiva to the right and Shri Durga to the left. Adjacent to the same on one side is Gita Bhawan containing a grand and attractive statue of Shri Bhagwan Krishna and the beautiful paintings from that immortal epic of Mahabharata. On the other side of the central structure is an excellent temple of the Bhagwan Budh. Here too, are walls paintings from his life and teachings. There is also a guest house a library, a reading room etc.

On the walls and upper gallery, there are numerous wonderful paintings and epitomes of all the great teachings of Hinduism. The fresco paintings are all done by the artist of Jaipur and the sculptured panels are by stone-masons from Jaipur who are a wee bit better the fresco painting.

Here all Hindus, i. e., the followers of the different branches of Hindu (Arya) Dharma, including Sanatanists, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains may participate in the daily worship, satsang and kirtan in consonance with the conventions of the temple in mutual harmony and good will. The temple is open to all Hindus including Harijans subject to the condition of cleanliness full faith and sincere devotion. The foreign tourists who

are interested in Arya Dharma can also visit the temple subject to the prescribed condition of purity.

The back side adjoining the ridge has been converted into an artificial and miniature mountains scenery. The garden contains caves scenes of falls, canopies; *yagayshala* etc., all which present a grand spectacle.

### COUNCIL HOUSE

Council House is situated at a distant of not more than a mile from Connaught Place. This is completely a circular edifice nearly half a mile in circumference with a continuous open colonnade. It is indeed a most noteworthy structure, the third finest architectural triumph of the British builders. Its foundation stone was laid by his Royal Highness, the Duke of Connaught in 1921. Its construction took five years and the opening ceremony was performed by Lord Irwin on 18th. Jan. 1927.

There are 144 columns of the purest creamy standstone, each 27 feet high, all round in the varandah. The central dome of the building is remarkably great in diameter, 98 feet as compared with that of St. Paul's Cathedral 109 feet. This is the home of the Indian Legislature.

It contains three main separate chambers. Each chamber has its own Pardah gallery and committee room. Waterways, beautiful fountains and charming gardens separate the chambers from one another. The first chamber—redicate from the central hall of the building, is Legislative Assembly designed to accommodate 400 members, the Second State Council with a capacity of 200 members and the third with an accommodation capacity of 120 members. Special permission is necessary for visitors.

### SACRETARIATS

The Sacretriats, adjoining the Government House. The foundation stones, laid by their Majesties in 1911 at the Durbar, site can be seen in the red sandstone vaulted chambers at the base of the two turrets.

This was designed by Sir Herbert Baker and was completed at a cost of one and three quarter crore of rupees, in 1929. It is next in excellence to the political buildings to the Government House and possibly the greatest state office building in the world. This consists of two great blocks, the north and the south. Each block is surmounted by a dome, 217 feet high from the lowest level of

the ground that is only 21 feet lower than Kutab Minar.

The building consists of about one thousand rooms and approximately eight miles of corridors with an air conditioning plant, which cools the summer air and warms the winter air, is a noteworthy feature of great usefulness. Over the main entrance to Secretariat, both north and south, some apt aphorisms are inscribed.

The interior decoration of the Secretariats is no less imposing than its splendid exterior. North Block contains some beautiful and interesting paintings depicting knowledge, justice, war and peace, sports of the age, dancing music and in the South Block, the four casts of India, holy and sacred cities are shown of every hism and the emblems of the old kings.

### **GOVERNMENT HOUSE**

The Government House is the most magnificent building in New Delhi and possibly is one of the most beautiful places in the world, its noble design, its magnificent interior decorations, its great central hall, its megestic columns, its beautiful corridors and apartments, being right in the centre of the Imperial Capital. It is the work of the

world famous architects Sir Edwin Lutyen and Sir Herbert Baker.

The chief material used in the building is red and white sandstone and many varieties of marble. The total area of the building is 330 acres including 12 acres of gardens. It contains  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile of corridors, 340 rooms, 227 columns, 35 loggies, 37 fountains, 14 lifts a complete telephone system and an unique electric installation costing 10 lakhs of rupees. It possesses a through water-supply, an excellent sanitary system, an up-to-date kitchen and refrigerating plant. The main building itself costs about a crore and a quarter of rupees. The furniture, too, arranged in the building are all excellent being made to Sir Edwin Lutyen's design.

At night when electric lights are lit, the reflections from the many coloured marble and stones, give the whole place the wonderful charm and the picturesqueness of a fairy's creation. The front of the house over looks a large and perfectly designed old Indian garden. First of all it was occupied by Lord and Lady Irwin on 23rd. december, 1929, although it had not been completd.

## WAR MEMORIAL ARCH

War Memorial Arch—known by common people as India Gate is situated to the east end of King's way Road. This monument was built in the honour of Indian Army men, who died in the Great War 1914-18. The foundation stone was laid by H. R. H. The Duke of Connaught, in 1921 and opened by Lord Irwin. It is worth a visit if one can have a chance to stair up its top, from where a bird eye view of the Capital can be held.

## SAFDAR JANG'S TOMB

The tomb is situated in a beautiful garden, about 6 miles from present Delhi, almost midway while going to Kutab Minar.

It was built on the plain of the Taj in 1753, the year of the death of Safdar Jang, by his son Nawab Shujaudaulah. Its historical value is derived from the fact that it is the last great Mohammedan monument. Sir Henry Sharp truly remarks, "It has been condemned for its excess of ornamentation and effeminate structure of fawn coloured stone, patterned with other hues. But it is a finely proportioned work, and in size, massing of its component parts and general effects, stands out superior to any thing produced in the



previous half century. It is a last expiring effort."

Safdar Jang was the Prime Minister of the Mughal Emperor Ahmad Shah. He played an important part in Delhi politics and consequently he was rising on a coveted post of Prime Minister, the piercer of Battle Rank, whose name as distinguished from his title was Mansur Ali Khan.

The masoleum stands on a raised terrace at a height of 10 feet from the level of the garden. The central hall, gives access to the vault containing the grave of Safdar Jang, is 40 feet high, support bulbous dome with marble minarets. It leads to eight rooms. The tomb itself is handsomely sculptured and bears a noble inscription meaning, "However great and pompeous a man may be in the presence of his fellowman, he is small and humble before God".

### SIKANDER LODI'S TOMB

It stands close to the Safdar Jang's Tomb. The celebrated king, Sikandar Lodi, is well known to westerners as the first monarch who built his capital at Agra.

It is supposed that the tomb of Sikander Lodi was built by his son and his successor Ibrahim Lodi in the year (1517-8 A. D.)

### HAUZ KHAS

The great tank extended 70 acres in area was built in 1295 A. D. by King Ala-ud-Din and repaired in 1354 A. D. by king Feroz Shah. It is now ruined and crop is cultivated on it.

Adjoning to this is the tomb of Firoz Shah Tuglak which was built in 1338 A. D. by Nasir-ud-Din Mohammad Shah. There lies also a tomb of Nasir-ud-Din Mohammad Shah, son of Firoz Shah.

Out side the tomb there are many tombs of the Amirs of the time of Sikrader Lodi.

### SIRI

Siri is the second Muslim city of its kind which was built by Ala-ud-Din Khilji in about 1303 A.D. It is situated some 3 miles far from the Kutab. Originally it was enclosed by particularly massive walls, which were demolished by Sher Shah Suri (1539-45 A. D.) and the materials transported for completing the building of the sixth city.

### JAHANPANA

The fourth city was built in 1327 A. D. by the second Tughlak king Mohammad Tughlak (1324-51 A. D.) with a view to join up Kutab and Siri with walls, for the protection of the population. It was enclosed by massive walls some five miles in circumference.

## KUTAB MINAR

This has been described as the seventh wonder of India. It lies nearly 11 miles to the south-west of Delhi and for miles around appears as a landmark above the surrounding country. It stands right in the heart of the site, once occupied by the oldest Delhi, the large and prosperous Capital founded by Sakars prior to the Christian era, until its conquest by Vikramaditya The Great in about 78 A. D. It stands exactly in the middle of the side, once covered by the citadel, built in the middle of eight century by Maharaja Anangpal the first King of Tomars. The Rajput tribe ruling a considerable part of the country between the Himalaya and Vindhya mountains. It also occupied the centre of Lal Kot, the stronghold of the Chauhan Rajput tribe about 12th. century.

In, fact the Kutab Minar otherwise Prithvi Stambh was the work of Maharaja Prithvi Raj Chauhan, the last Hindu Emperor of India, and was built according to the desire of his wife to see the sacred river Jumna daily from its height. The titles of sultans and verses from the Koran, which are inscribed on it were done later on. However

Kutab-ud-Din commenced refashioning it in 1200 A. D. and in his days, it consisted only of the first or lowest storey and the Minar was not included in the Kutab Masjid. Its second and third storeys were added to by his slave, successor and his son in law Shamsh-ud-Din Altamash ( 1210-36 A.D. ). The fourth and the fifth storeys with cupola were built by Firoz Shah Tughlak ( 1251-88 A. D. ).

The monument takes the form of a graceful tower 238 feet in height and rises from a base diameter of 47 feet to one of 9 feet at the summit which is a wonderful testimony to the skill of ancient engineers of the east. The Minar consists of five storeys separated by balconies composed of richly carved projecting pendentives in a characteristic style. The first three stories are built of red sandstones richly decorated with carved scrolls, the fourth and the fifth are of marble and sandstone both.

The first storey or the lowest storey is about 95 feet in height, second attains a height of 50 feet 8½ inches, the third is 40 feet 3½ inches, the fourth 25 feet 4 inches and the fifth 22 feet 4 inches. There was also a cupola 12 feet 10 inches in height on the top the fifth.

was destroyed by an earthquake shocks in 1803 but replaced in 1829 by Major Robert Smith the Executive Engineer of Delhi at a cost of Rs. 17,000 but later on this copula was finally removed by the order of the Governor General of India and was placed near the Kutab Minar. Now a simple railing girds the top of the Minar.

The summit is reached by 379 stone steps, from where a magnificent view is obtained. It was twice struck by lightning and once seriously injured by violent earthquakes. However, it has been singularly fortunate in the fact that it has been added to re-built and repaired during many successive generations, by rulers of different dynasties. The inscription in the Arabic characters seems to have been inscribed on its surface in later years. However, Lt. Col. H. A. Newell surely make a significant statement as follows: "Owing to the extreme durability of the red sandstone, from which it is constructed the Minar presents a deceptively modern appearance while the excellence and curious beauty of the design, constitute the architectural glory of Delhi."

The inscription over the entrance doorway translation means:—

*"The prophet, on whome be God's blessing and peace, said 'He who builds a mosque for God, God will build for him a similar house in paradise'" "This minar during the reign of Sikandra Shah was injured and was restored as well as its upper storeys were repaired in 1503"*

In the second storey over the doorway records.

*"The completion of this building was commanded by Allamash....."*

On the third storey over the doorway:—

*"This building was completed under the superintendence of the slave, Md. Amir Koh".*

On the fourth storey:—

*"The erection of it was ordered during the reign of Allamash".*

On the fifth storey:—

*"This edifice was built by Firoz Sultan"*

## PLACES ROUND KUTAB MINAR

### Alia Darwaza

Alia Darwaza (the great gate) stands just beyond a few feet from Kutab Minar. Alla-ud-Din Khilji was famous of his great architectural activity. The portal illustrated the first Pathan period at its very best. It is held to be built in 1310 A. D. and is regard: ma

rities to be the most beautiful gateway existance. Mr. Fanshave remarks "The Alia Darwaza is not only the most beautiful structure at the Kutab Minar, but is one of the most beautiful specimens of external polychromatic decoration not merely in India, but in the whole world, while the carving of interior may challenge comparison with any work of the kind. Both exterior and interior merit detailed and leisurely examination".

The gateway is a square in plane measuring  $35\frac{1}{2}$  feet inside and  $56\frac{1}{2}$  feet externally. The walls are 11 feet thick and have got a height of 47 feet from the floor to the ceiling. A lofty ennobles each of the four sides, while the general effect is further enhanced by a richly carving.

### **Iron Pillar.**

The Iron Pillar near Kutab Minar is also an old Hindu relic of the 4th. century A. D. It is 32 feet and 8 inches high. The shaft is of solid iron with its diameter 16.4 inches and 12.4 inches at the base and top. It terminates in a knob in the ground at a depth of 3 feet where it is firmly fixed by eight strong bars attached to stone blocks. The pillar is very strong and its surface is very smooth. Curious characters are inscribed in Sanskrit



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on the surface of the pillar.

The original one on translation means :—

*"He, on whose fame was inscribed by the several, when, in battle in the Vanga Countries, he kneaded and turned back with his breast the enemies who, uniting together, came against him;—he, by whom having crossed in warfare the seven months of the river Indus Sindhu, the Vahlikas were conquered—he, by the breezes of whose process the southern ocean is even still perfumed;—He, the remnant of the great glowing heat of a burned out fire in great forest, even now leaves not the earth, though he, the king, as if wearied, has quitted this earth,, and has gone to the other world, moving in bodily from to the land of paradise won by the merit of his actions, but remaining on this earth by the memory of his fame;—By whom the king,—who attained sole supreme sovereignty in the world, acquired by his own arm and enjoyed for a long time; and who, having the name of Ohandra carried a beauty of countenance like the beauty of the full moon,—having in faith fixed his mind upon the God (Vishnu), lofty standard of the Diviue Vishnu was set upon the hill called "Vishnupad".*

The remarks of some authorities however will be intersting to my readers, according to Mr. Newell, "It is a forged bar of pure, unrusting iron nearly 24 feet high and said to weigh six tons, gracefully moulded at the top, and so strong that a cannon fired at it did little injury.



Hindus were able to do this piece of forging some centuries ago". Mr. Henry Sharp remarks, "It is only fair to the Hindus to remember that wonderfull as is the towering minar above. The Iron Pillar is even more astonishing". Cunningham wrote about it as follow: "The Iron Pillar of Delhi is one of the most curious monuments of India. Many large works of metal were no doubt made in ancient times, such for instance as the celebrated Colossus of Rhodes and the gigantic statues of the Buddhist, which are described by Hwen Thsang. But all of them were built of pieces welded together whereas the Delhi pillar is a solid shaft of mixed metal". Lt. Col. H. A. Newell remarks, "Not only is it very strange to find so mightly a bar of iron forged at so early a period; it almost savours of magic to discover. That although the column has been exposed to the storms of seventeen hundred years, not a particle of dust corrodes in smooth surface. The inscription is as sharply defined and as legible as on the day it was first cut".

Nadir Shah, the whirlwind invader of India, came to Delhi in 1738 during the reign of Mohamad Shah. The invading guest and the invaded host both went to Kutab Minar, where this Iron

Pillar attracted the attention of Nadir. Finding it a rival in name he wanted to have it taken out, but the pillar was too firm to be uprooted by any such passing shocks. The cannon was at last restored to, but it could make no impression on it except producing a small depression on its surface, which is still visible to the eye of the visitors.

The story of its name is a fascinating mystery. Accordingly to Sayyed Ahmad Khan, the Pillar was constructed by Raja Madhava in 895 B. C., according to Mr. Prinsep's translation of the six lines inscription in Sanskrit, it was built by Raja Dhava who reigned over Delhi in the third or fourth century A. D. But according to Bhan Daji, a Great Sanskrit authority who considered Mr. Prinsep's translation as wrong, it was built by Maharaja Chandra in honour of Vishnu God and was styled Vishnu Lath, Maharaja Chandra is regarded by Cunningham, Bhan Daji, Thoms and other Sanskrit scholars to reign in India about the middle of the fifth century. However, it is probable that the Pillar was built by Maharaja Chandra who has been indentified as one of the Mewar line of kings.

The Pillar was formerly styled as Vishnu Lath but different schools of thought have called it otherwise. It was called Pillar of Raja Dhava by Mr. Prinsep and Lt. Col. H. A. Newell Pandava pillar by Wheeler and so on. But today it is popularly known as Loh Stambh (Iron Pillar). It is said that Pillar was originally fixed at Indraprasth, the ancient Capital of the Hindus and was removed and set up in the centre of Vishnu Mandir by the Rajput Chief Anangpal Tomer, as an ornamentation in his new citadel about the middle of the 11th century A. D.

Traditions say, "As the losend the pillar, his empire did not remain permanent. The event is remcmberad in the following well known verse:—

*"Kili To Dhili Bhai,  
Tomar Bhaya Mat Hin"*

Which translated means:—

*"The pilliar is more tense,  
As Tomer lost his sence."*

## Lal Kot

Lal Kot was commenced by Anangpal, the Rajput Chief in the eleventh century (1066 A. D.). The formidable stronghold was  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mile in circut and was enclosed by walls of colossal



The building was originally Vishnu Mandir (Hindu Temple) and was turned into a mosque just after Delhi was wrested from Prithvi Raj. The transformation of Hindu Temple into Kutab Mosque has been variously described. Lt.Col H.A. Newell remarks, "The walls are Pathan but the richly wrought pillars are the spoils of Hindu, Jain, and buddhist Shrines found in its vicinity. As such, Fergusson attributes them to the ninth or tenth century A. D." According to Cunningham, some of these pillars may still be seen in the proper and he further remarks, "To conceal Hindu decoration, every part of the mosque was plastered and purposely ornamented with flowers and texts from the *Koran* and designs of various sorts. Time has, however, destroyed the plaster and the Hindu work is once more exposed to view." Sir Henry Sharp observes, "The trebeats structure shows that the Aryas were employed in its erection; it was doubtless Hindu too who covered the surface with an exquisite lace work of Tughra lettering and flowered patterns. The general effect is peculiar". It is evident that the transformation was begun by Kutab-ud-Din Aibak in about 1193. Later on Altamsh enlarged the mosque and the Kutab Minar brought within its limits.

### **Tomb of Altamash.**

Tomb of Altamash is situated at the north-west corner of the mosque. It was built by his daughter, the celebrated Empress Raziyyah. The design and workmanship of the tomb has been greatly praised by professional architects and are cited as a good example of Hindu art applied to Mohammadan purposes. In addition to the beauty of its details it is interesting as being the oldest tomb known to exist in India. The effect at present is injured by the want of roof, which judging from appearance, was never completed; if ever commenced.

### **Ala-ud-Din's Minar**

It stands to the north of Kutab Minar. This unfinished tower was begun by Ala-ud-Din Khilji in 1311 A.D. Its circumference is some 254 feet. It is related that the founder had ordered that the circumference and height of this minar to be made double the corresponding dimension of the Kutab Minar, but it never reached a height of more than 87 feet as the builder's death followed in 1315 A.D.

### **Rai Pithora Kot**

It lies to the west of the Kutab Minar. When muslim raid became a serious menace to Lal Kot,

it was decided to build a new but large stronghold, on the side from which attacks were most to be feared. According to Sayyed Ahmad Khan, it was erected in 1143 but Cunningham has stated its construction to be made in 1180 or 1186. It had 10 gates and contained 27 Hindu, Jain and Buddhist temples; elaborately carved pillars of which were used later on by Muslim conquerors to build their mosques, According to Ibu Batuta, "The lower part of the walls is built of stones, the upper part of bricks". Undoubtedly the lower stony part was of the Hindu and the upper part of Muslim.

### Yogmaya Temple

Yogmaya Temple is about 1 furlong from Kutab Minar is to be seen, the temple sacred to Yogmaya. According to *Bhagwat Puran* she was the sister of Bhagwan Krishna, who escaped death from the hands of cruel Kans and soaring up to the sky informed him of the birth of his destroyer Sri Krishna. There is no other temple of Yogmaya through out India. Tradition has placed this temple on the very spot of the temple built by Mahārāja Yudhister (about 3000 B. C). The present temple, built in 1827, along with associated

buildings, stands within a walled enclosure, 400 feet square. The Temple is 42 feet high. It will suffice to describe this temple in brief in the words of Mr. Keene, "In a marble floored and flat roofed room 17 feet square, entered through a doorway with a marble frame it tenderly kept a black sacred stone concealed in tinseal and cloth, in a marble veil two feet wide and one foot deep."

### **Adam Khan's Tomb**

Adam Khan's Tomb is situated on a lofty terrace some 17 feet above the road and about half a mile to the south west of the Kutab Minar. The Tomb is large and spacious, octagonal in shape as Lodi style and built of grey sandstone. Adam Khan was a noted general in Moghal army of the Great Akbar. After his death in 1526 A. D. Akbar erected this handsome tomb to his memory.

### **Baoli**

About 100 yards to the south of Adam Khan's Tomb, built in (1210-35). The Baoli in five tiers each tier narrowing as it descends toward the bottom. The circular portion of the well lies to the south of a flight of some 105 steps down to the water level. The Baoli measures some 133



feet by 35 feet. The top gallery is architectural-treated with a range of stone columns.

### **Sultan Ghorî's Tomb**

To the west of Kutab Minar lies the mausoleum of Sultan Ghorî son of Altamash in a small village of Malikpur. It is chiefly constructed of marble and the structure is a fine instance of the last Pathan period, built in 1331-32 A. D.

### **Dargah Kutab Sahib**

About a mile and a half south by west of Kutab Minar and so called after the Saint, Kutab-ud-Din Bukhtiar Kaki, a man of Guzerat who died at Delhi about 1225. It is said by some tradition that the Kutab Minar is named after him. The space reserved for the tomb of Bhadur Shah who was buried at Rangoon, is still pointed out.

## **TUGHLAKABAD**

Some 12 miles south of Delhi lies the ruins of Tuglakabad. The fortress stands high on a scraped out crop of rock. It is a half hexagon in shape with the long side measuring a mile and a half, to the south and the whole perimeter is about 4 miles. Historians assert a most incredible fact that the colossal work of building the citadel and Fort of

Tughlakabad was completed in two years (1321-23 A. D.) by Ghias-ud-Din Tughlak, a soldier of fortune and the founder of Tughlak Dynasty.

The fort had 15 gateways, 7 tanks and a remarkable well sunk 80 feet in the solid rock. The defences consisted of walls rising above the rock to a height of 43 feet, a seven feet parapet and then another 15 feet of walls. The walls are sufficiently thick and solid in structure. A series of domed chambers, believed to have been the quarters of the garrison, runs along below the ramparts which are loopholed, and are due to air. On its south side, there was a big artificial lake with an embankment and on the sides there was a wide moat. One-sixth the area in the south west was occupied by the citadel, containing the Kings Palace. Extensive remains of Jame Masjid and Burj Minar indicates that probably Tughlakabad was another modification of some pre-existing Hindu buildings.

**Ghias-ud-Din Tughlak's Tomb** stands to the south of the Fort Tughlakabad, in the centre of the artificial lake. It was connected with the citadel by means of a stone causeway 600 feet long, carried on 27 arches. The entrance to the tomb is through a high and massive gateway of red sand-

stone, and a flight of 32 stone steps from the causeway give access to the tomb level.

The tomb contains three graves; those of Ghias-ud-Din Tughlak, his wife and Mchammad Shah Tughlak his son and successor. It was begun by Tughlak himself in 1321 A. D. but was not completed until the year following his death.

### KALKA JI

It is situated about 8 miles from Delhi near Okhla Railway station. Traditions says that it stands on the same grounds of a temple built as early as 3,000 B. C. The oldest part of the present temple was built in 1764 A.D. Kali Devi's idol, placed in the centre of the temple, is completely covered with brocade and red cloth. It is enclosed on three sides by a red sandstone and white marble railing. This place is very sacred to the Hindus. On every Tuesday, a fair is held but two times in a year—on 8th day of *Chait* and *Asauj* there held big festivals.

### NIZAM-UD-DIN'S TOMB

The tomb of Nizam-ud-Din is situated about 5 miles from Delhi city. It is one of the most sacred places of the Muslim pilgrimage in India.

The cemetery is worth mentioning as it contains characteristic examples of marble masonry representing the continuous efforts of six centuries. The tank, or Baoli, into which men and boys dive from the surrounding buildings, is named "Chashmi-i-Dilkash" or "the heart alluring spring".

The masoleum was erected by Mohammed Shah Tuglak (1324-51). The tomb lies in the midst of the Central Court, measures 31 feet 9 inches square externally, the verandah, which is 6 feet 9 inches in width and paved with marble, having five arched openings on each side, the opening measure alternately 5 feet 6 inches and 3 feet 3 inches. The tomb chamber measures some 15 feet 8 inches square internally and 18 feet externally, is entered through a single door on the south side flanked by marble screen and is lit by opening filled with a screen pierced white marble.

Followers of the saint tell wonderful stories of the cures wrought by a visit to the shrine, of prayers miraculously answered and boons conferred. Critics recount him to be a member of a dangerous secret society with headquarters of Kohrasan. It is asserted that a feud arose Nizam-ud-Din and the

Tughlak, while the former was busy in excavating his tank and the latter in the construction of a stronghold; and in revenge Nizam-ud-Din conspired with his son for his death over a curious pavilion.

South to the tomb of Sheikh come to the graves of many persons of note, and amongst them not a few of Royal blood, resting as close as possible to his holy influence. Next to the mosque in the row is a marble enclosure with the grave of Jahanara Begum, daughter of Emperor Shahjahan. Bernier describe this noble princess as, "Very beautiful, a great wit, and passionately beloved by her father". The grave consists of a marble block hollowed out so as to form a receptacle for earth in which grass is planted; at the north side stands a headstone with verses supposed to have been written by the princess: which meanings "Let green grass only conceal my grave: grass is the best covering of the grave of the meek".

On the either side of her are buried Mohammad Shah during whose reign Delhi was sacked by Nadir Shah in 1729. A gateway to the south leads to the tomb of Khusru, who was the chief disciple and friend of Sheikh Nizam-ud-Din and

the first Urdu poet. Near the chabutra in the courtyard is the grave of Mirza Jahangir. Here also, is the tomb of Azan Khan who saved Emperor Humayun's life in battle.

### HUMAYUN'S TOMB

The tomb of The Emperor Humayun, who, after being driven from his kingdom, returned and succeeded in the Mughal dynasty on the throne of Delhi, is about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the south of the city. It stands in the midst of a large garden, levelled with green grass and flowers, and screened by high walls with superb gateways to the south and west. The site for the masoleum was chosen by the Emperor Humayun himself and on his death it was built by his widow, Hamida Begum popularly known as Nawab Haji Begum, she was the mother of Akbar the Great. The tomb was completed in 1556 A. D. at a cost of 15 lakhs of rupees.

The masoleum of Humayun occupies the central position in the large chamber under the dome and is built of polished white marble raised on a terraced platform inlaid with black stars. The roof of the chamber, some 80 feet in height, is surmounted by a beautiful splend white marble dome with a copper gilt spike, higher than the

basement terrace by 140 feet. The floors and walls are of white marble.

From an architectural point of view the tomb of special interest and is earliest example of the Moghul School. Sir Henry Sharp remarks, "For size and impressive grandeur, no other tomb built at Delhi, and indeed a few in India, can compare with it". Its towers which appear for the first time at four angles of the main building and its narrow necked are the notable innovations. The tomb is full of tragic memories. Other cenotaphs in this tomb include those of Hamida Begum, Emperor Humayun's wife, Jahandar Shah (1712-13), Furrukhsiyar (1713-19), Alamgir II (1754-59) and Prince Dara Shikoh, the favorite son and heir apparent to Emperor Shahjahan. The ill-fated prince never crowned being murdered by his brother Aurangzeb while a captive in a state prison in Slingarh.

The central chamber opens into a number of small rooms, and it was in one of these dimly lighted rooms the nearest on the right—that Bahadur Shah, the last Moghul Emperor, sought refuge in 1857 (after the fall of the city), yielded up his sword to the British after the capture of Delhi

from the sepoy mutineers in 1857. Bhadur Shah's life was spared, but his sons, grandsons and nephews were summarily executed by Major Hudson, with his own hands with in sight of the tomb. Lt. Col. H.A. Newell's remarks, "History records nothing stranger nor more dramatic than the Imperial tragedy enacted within the shadowy tomb on that hot September afternoon. Here, by the gleaming marble sarcophangus of the first hereditary monarch of the house of Taimur the last monarch of the famous line yielded up the sword, where with Humayun had cut his way to Empire"

### ISA KHAN'S TOMB

Close to Humayun's Tomb is Isa Khans' Tomb. It is named after a noble of Sher Shah's time who was buried here in 1547. It was at one time profusely decorated with encaustic tiles. The octagonal tomb, with its raised outer gallery and pavilions round the tomb has been much admired.

### INDARPARASTHA

Indarpurastha otherwise *Purana Kila* is the ancient Capital of the Hindus originally built in pre-historic times about 3,000 B.C.) by Mahamdia Yudhister of Mahabharat fame; changes h



doubt taken place, yet the spot, where the Fort stands, is still known by the said name, notwithstanding the fact that several reigns followed one after the other during the enormous epoch of the last 5,000 years and caused considerable alteration. In those distant days, the Jumna river lay a mile to the west of its present course, particularly on the Delhi Muthra Road. Prof. T. G. R. Spar remarks (I.S. Rly. Maz) "Nothing remains of the city of Indarparstha, for the sufficient reason that the buildings of the period were of wood and have long since disappeared". Indarparastha is now only a ruin but the old walls are traceable.

### **Old Fort**

Old Fort is situated about two mile from modern Delhi. Its circumference is little more than a mile and is rectangular in shape. Its gates and the walls are massive surmounted by fragile kiosks and appear above them in couple of places and traces of enamel are still perceptable on the gateways.

It was built in 1533-43. A. D. by the Moghul Emperor and his Afghan conqueror Sher Shah Suri. The fort is one of the best preserves of the ruins near Delhi. It contains a mosque named

Sher Mosque also known as 'Kila Kana Masjid' and 'Sher Mandal'.

### **Sher Shah Mosque**

The mosque is some 172 feet by 56 feet and 52 feet in height, is built of sharply chiselled red sandstone, relieved with marble, slate and coloured stonework. There are small pinnacles at the corners and a bold dome in the centre, the flat roof is crenellated along the sky line and the facade consists of five horse shoe arches. This mosque is the example of the artistry of the Indo Afghan School.

### **Sher Mandal**

Just to the south of the mosque is an Octagonal two storeyed building called 'Sher Mandal'. It is built of red sandstone and surmounted by an open pavilion. It was hear that, Emperor Humayun met with an accident, while coming down the staircase of the library, he received a mortal wound and died after some months.

### **Lal Darwaza**

Facing the Old Fort is the Lal Darwaza or 'Red Gate of Humayun and Sher Shah. The capital of these two rival claimants for imperial power ex-

tended from Lal Darwaza to south of the site now occupied by Humayun's Tomb. The circuit of the walls was about that of Shahjahanbad. Close to it stands Irwin Amphitheatre grounds.

### ASHOKA PILLAR

It is situated half a mile from the Delhi Gate close upon the right bank of the Jumna. The weight of the pillar is supposed some 27 tons, attains a height of 42 feet 7 inches above the ground masonry. The upper and lower diameter of the exposed length are 25·3 inches and 38·8 inches respectively. It is cut out of pale pink sandstone whose brightly surface is covered with Pali, the sacred Buddhist tongue,, the spoken language of third century B.C., a derivative of Sanskrit. It has four distinct inscriptions, on the four sides, facing the cardinal points. There is one long inscription immediately below them which goes completely round the pillar. The last ten lines of the eastern face and the long continuous around inscription are peculiar to this pillar of Delhi.

It is one of the many pillars that were erected in various parts in India by Maharaja Ashoka, King of Magadh in 250 B.C., who had embraced

**Budhism.** As a matter of fact, this pillar is one of the many pillars which were erected by him from Orissa to Kabul. The pillar was brought to this position by Firoz Shah Tuglak in 1351-58 A. D. According to Sir Henry Sharp however, observes that it was brought from Ambala District but Lt. Col. H. A. Newell remarks that this pillar was brought from Tabra Village in the Khiazrabad district about 120 miles from Delhi.

However the pillar was wrapped in reeds ram-skin and was lifted on a specially constructed wagon run on 42 wheels and transported through the Jumna river in a boat and set up in Firozabad. When Finch visited Delhi in 1611, the pillar was surmounted by a glittering globe and gilded crescent which was injured by lightning. The pillar was thrown down by an explosion of a powder magazine in 1714-19 and was set up again in 1867.

### **SAMADHI OF MAHATMA GANDHI**

The Samadhi is situated about a furlong far from Ashoka Pillar on the ground of Raj Ghat, an ancient site belived to be of Maharaja Yudhis-tar's time. Here Mahatma Gandhi's funeral cremation was done on 31st. Jan. 1947 the next day

of the *Black Date* in Indian History of his assassination.

The ground Which was once lying desert has converted into a sacred pilgrimage of thousands of all the nations. Arrangements are being made to change this site into a charming garden. Here on every Friday evening a prayer is held.

### **KALAN MASJID** KALAN

Kalan Masjid or Kali Masjid is situated near Turkman Gate. It was built by Firoz Shah Tughlak in 1387. His citadel, Firozabad extended upto this mosque. The mosque possesses a square courtyard surrounded by a cloister. There are rows of stone pillars which divide the mosque into fifteen squares, all roofed by domes and central one is the largest and highest. This mosque is said to be the oldest in the city.

### **JAIN TEMPLE** 5

It is situated at a short distance from the Jama Masjid. Its foundation stone was laid by L. Her Sukh Raj Ji in 1803 and was completed in 1810 at a cost of 8 lakhs of rupees. The *Bedi* of this temple is built of pure white marble. This temple has been spoken of as an architectural gem of the highest purity in which both the mosaic

and inlaid work have attained their loftiest perfection. The decorated work is similar to the work exhibited in the Taj. The *Kamal* alone on which the *Murti* of Shri Adi Nath Bhagwan is placed was completed at a cost of 10,000 rupees. In Mutiny of 1857 Jains guarded this temple with their hearts. Old paintings of the dome and walls have repaints. Lt. Col. H.A. Newell remarks, "Alone in this temple at Delhi was the architect inspired with the happy idea of combined use and ornament by decorating the back of the sturt with pierced foliage of unusual delicacy and beauty".

### CHANDNI CHOWK

Chandni Chowk is one of the finest Indian street in existence and is the principal thoroughfare and busy market of Delhi. It is about three quarters of a mile long and 50 yards broad. The noble street is said to have been built by Jahan Begum, favourite daughter of the Emperor Shah-jahan. It has two striking landmarks, ~~Fountain~~ and Clock Tower. Fountain is near the east end and faces Railway Station Road, Clock Tower is near the western face. Municipality is on the south and Nai Sarak Bazar on the south of the Clock Tower. Chandni Chowk literally

and still it is the head quarters of the Indian jewellery. It boasts of thrilling history of its own as it has been the scene of tragic episodes and has frequently run with blood. A remarkable example is of Nadir Shah's invasion in 1739 and his massacre of several thousands Delhi citizens. It was also here that from a house a bomb was thrown at the Viceroy, Lord Harding, when he was proceeding in state along the Chandni Chowk to Red Fort on the 23rd December, 1912 formerly to receive the new Imperial Capital.

**Masjid Fetehpuri** stands on the western end of Chandni Chowk, built in the seventeenth century by Fetehpuri Begum wife of Emperor Shahjahan. The building is massive in design. There are the three gateways, the eastern faces the Chandni Chowk being the largest. There is a large courtyard and a fountain in the centre.

**Sunahari Masjid** or Golden mosque is situated near the chief Police Station. Its dome and minarets, laden with an envious quality of gold are its special features. At this historic spot Nadir Shah, the Persian invader, stood for six hours with sword in hand and massacred several thousands citizens.

grave lies to the north side of church. Several members of his family are buried near by. In the Indian army his name is perpetuated by two regiments 1st Skinner's Horse and 3rd Skinner's Horse.

### **KASHMERE GATE**

It is one of the surviving ten gates pierced in the high battlement wall in Delhi of the muslims. It is named because of its facing the celebrated Kashmir State. In 1857 during the mutiny, this place was the scene of one of the fiercest fights.

It is the fashionable shopping centre, which proud position has now been snatched away by Connaught Place of New Delhi. At any rate even now, it claims, and rightly too, the honoured position of being the mother of Connaught Place and the most fashionable shopping center of Old Delhi. It is the center of higher education in Delhi accomodating, as it does, Hindu College, St. Stephen College, University, Laboratories and Delhi Polytechnic. It is also the seat of the Courts and the Commissioner's office.

### **NICHOLSON'S STATUE**

This is a well kept small garden just out side of the Kashmere Gate. Here stands the statue of the famous "Nickalsan Sahib" General John



Nicholson ) unveiled by Lord Minto on the 6th. April 1906. He headed the successful attack on the Kashmere Gate bastion during the Mutiny of 1857. Here on the 14th. September brave General received a mortal wound from a musket ball. As he lay on the ground he asked to be moved in to a shed of a tree after which he exclaimed, "I will remain here untill Delhi is taken". Later on in the day Lord Robert, then Lieutenant, caused him, however, to be carried to camps. Hudson wrote on the 15th, September to his brother thus—Poor Nicholson was most dangerously wounded at a time, too when his services were beyond expression valuable." The heroic Nicholson breathed his last on the morning of 23rd. September 1857 in an early age of 35 years.

### **KUDSIA GARDEN**

The Garden lies about a quarter mile north of Kashmere Gate. It was constructed by Kudsia Begum, the wife of Emperor Mohamad Shah and the mother of illfated Ahamad Shah, whose reign dates became final decline of the Moghul Empire

### **METCALF HOUSE**

It is situated at Alipore Road and was erected and occupied by Sir Theophilus Metcalf, I. C. S.

Bart, Magistrate of Delhi during the siege in 1857. This place was burnt on the night of 11th. May, 1857. It was seized by the mutineers and they held it with great advantage against the British besieging forces until they were outstated. It is now been considerably altered and enlarged. For some time it housed one of the Indian Legislative houses.

### **OLD SECRETARIAT**

It is situated on Alipore Road and is one of the most pleasing building in Delhi. It was constructed in 1912 and was formerly the Secretariat of the Government of India. It remained under the occupation of the Government of India for 14 years and now are the houses of Divisional Railway. office, I. R. publicity office, D.A.G.P. & T. etc.

The total expenditure on the temporary Secretariat, clerk's quarters, the additions to the Vice-regal Lodge and on camps was about Rs 60,00,000

### **TOMB ALAM'S**

This tomb is situated in Wazirabad at a distance of two and a half mile from Kashmere Gate. It was built 3 years later on his death. Shah Alam, the successor to Alamgir (1759) had a pitiable career. He was de-throned by Ghazim-d-Din He returned to Delhi after 17 years and later

tortured and blinded by the Rohillas and was taken under British protection in 1803.

### **CORONATION MEMORIAL**

To the north of the Old Secretariat at stands the Coronation Durbar memorial Pillar which was built in 1911 in honour of the visit of their Majesty King George V and Queen Mary. It was here that the announcement of the restoration of Delhi as a Capital of India instead of Calcutta was made.

### **FLAG STAFF TOWER**

The Flag Staff Tower, locally known as Boata is a curious circular structure. It is formed one of the principal posts on the Ridge during the siege of 1857. On the 11th. May, 1857. it was crowded to suffocation with men, women and children. It was also here that the mutineers made their last stand on the 8th June before falling back behind the shelter of the city walls. Near it lies the imposing Delhi University building.

### **HINDU RAO'S HOUSE**

It was the residence of a Maratha nobleman. The house was built by Mr. William Fraser, Agent to the Governor-General at Delhi, as his residence. After the murder of Mr. Fraser by the Newab of Ferozpur it was purchased by Hindu Rao, and hence this place named after him. Now it has converted into a Hospital.

### **MUTINY MEMORIAL**

The Mutiny Memorial is locally known as Fatehgarh. The tower was erected in 1863 in the

memory of the officers and soldiers, British and Indians, of the Delhi field force who were killed in action or died of wounds or disease between 30th. May and 20th. September, 1857.

The monument consists of tapering tower of indifferent Gothic design raised on a high base of local hard stone paved with red sandstone. The base is of two stage which are 80 feet 7 inches and 64 feet 8 inches square and 11 feet 4 inches and 5 feet 11 inches high respectively. The tower itself is octagonal in shape. It bears a marble slab having the names of those who fell during the siege. From here a magnificent panoramic view of Delhi can be obtained.

## RIDGE

The Ridge was the vantage ground from which the British forces played upon Delhi during the siege of 1857. It is a crest of hills 60 feet in height situated at a distance about one mile from the modern Delhi. The famous Ridge is a part of the Delhi Hills which is spur of Aravali Mountains. It now attains a height of more than 915 feet. Firoz Shah built here his summer Palace in the fourteenth century. Here stands another **Asok Lat** which was originally erected near Meerut in the third century B. C. by Maharaja Ashoka. This was brought from Meerut and set up by Firoz Shah in his palace. It bore Emperor Ashoka's fourteen edicts. It appears to be composed of six pieces and has a height of 32 feet 9 inches.

## CHAPTER V

# THE EIGHT DELHIS

Delhi, the Imperial Capital for many centuries has continued to be the Capital of succeeding empires—successive holders of conquerors from the north-west Græco-Bactrian Kushans, Scythians, Turks, Pathans, Moghuls & British who have set their conquering force toward Delhi. Since the 11th, century it has been rebuilt at least 7 times, each time on a new site and with a new name but Delhi, otherwise "Dilli" its old name has always survived to this day. It has been rebuilt six times by the Muslims until the advent of the British making the eight Delhi, known as New Delhi.

Earliest history of Delhi appears in Mahabharata when it was the Capital of Pandavs Empire known as Indraprasth though nothing remain of it yet the name is preserved in Indraprasth generally known as Old Fort, Six older cities of Delhi are now a mass of ruins scattered over the plain seventh is the modern Delhi & the eight New Delhi. All the eight cities are described as follow:—

**Qutab**—The first city of Delhi is of the 12th century when Maharaja Prithvi Raj was the Hindu Emperor of India. The city may also be styled as Hindu Capital. In 1192 Prithvi Raj was defeated by Mohammed Ghori and his

successor, Qutab-ud-Din refashioned the city and styled it as 'Kutab'. This word did not survive long. Today only remains of oldest Delhi are Kutab Mosque and Kutab Minar.

**Siri**—The second city of Delhi was built in 1303 A. D. by Sultan Ala-ud-Din Khilji, approximately 3 miles to the north-east of Kutab (the first city of Delhi) in order to provide for the growing population. In those days Siri was a circular city with its lofty buildings, enclosed by strong fortification of stone and brick. Today it is known as Shahpur and its interesting feature is the mass of ruins and the portion of the massive walls.

**Tulakabad**—The third city of Delhi was built in 1321 A.D. by Gaias-ud-Din Tughlak, the founder of the Tughlak dynasty, some four miles to the east of Kutab. The tomb of its founder and massive walls represent it today.

**Jahanpanah**—The fourth city of Delhi was built in 1327 A.D. by Mohammad Shah the second King of Tughlak, dynasty. It stood between Kutab & Siri. It was founded with a view to join the two with walls 5 miles in circumference for the protection of the inhabited quarters between them hence its name Jahanpana literally meaning world asylum. In those days it had six and seven gates on north and south sides respectively and to day it is represented by Vija Mandal, Begumpur Mosque and Roshan Chirag Delhi.

**Firozabad**—The third city was built about 1354 A. D. by Firoz Shah, the third king of the Tughlak line. It was constructed approximately 8 miles north of Kutab and just outside the south-east of the modern Delhi. it i

remarkable for Ashoka Pillar but Kalan Masjid (grand mosque) just inside the walls of modern Delhi are no less interesting. Many tombs and other ruins lie scattered over the country side denote how extensive was the city.

**Purana kila**—The sixth city of Delhi, known as Indraprastha lies some two miles south of Modern Delhi. It was built on the older site of the famous city built by the five Pandavs (the heroes of Mahabharat). It was apparently begun in 1533 A. D. by Humayun and completed during 1540-45 A. D. This was populated again by Humayun on his restoration in 1555. Now its splendid walls contain Sher Mandal and Sher Shah Mosque.

**Shahjahanabad**—The seventh city of Delhi was built between 1633-58 A. D. by the Master builder Emperor Shahjahan during Aurangzeb's reign, Delhi was reckoned to contain 200,000 inhabitants. Its walls restored by the British are in good preservation. The chief interest lies in the Red Fort and the Jama Masjid.

**New Delhi**—The eight city of Delhi built between 1911-30 by British at Raisina. On the 12th. December 1911 at the time of Royal Durbar, His Majesties King and Emperor George Vth. announced Delhi once again The Imperial Capital (see page 27)

## THE DELHI ITINERARY

**The Delhi Itinerary**—The sight in Delhi can be seen with in a day or two but comfortably within three days. And if the visitors want a longer stay they are requested to make their own programmes according to their convenience. The following itinerary is arranged commencing from Maiden's, Cecil, Swiss and Imperial Hotels or from Kashmere Gate, Chandni Chowk or Connaught Place.

### First Day Fore Noon

Visit the Jain Temple, Jama Masjid and Kalan Masjid and then Fort. For lunch you may return to hotel.

## Taxi &amp; Tonga Fares

Taxis—You can summon by phone from Western Court 8073, Queensway 8953, Imperial Hotel 7953, Regal Building 7480, Delhi Junction 5179, Madian's Hotel 7856, Civil Aerodrome 40171/53.

The Rates Fixed:—

For the 1st mile or part thereof	Rs. 1 0 0
For subsequent per mile	Rs. 0 12 0
Detention per hour	Rs. 1 14 0
Journey within the limits of the Delhi Urban Area.	

## SCHEDULE I

For 1st hour

If a tonga has been driven for a continuous journey of more than 5 miles	Rs. 2 0 0
Otherwise	Rs. 1 4 0
For each subsequent hour or part of an hour	1 0 0
For a journey not exceeding 2½ mile complete within half an hour	Rs. 0 12 0

## SCHEDULE II

Journey extending outside the Delhi Urban area, including return journey, if the return journey is made within time mentioned in last column.

Delhi main Rly. St.	To Delhi Cantt	Rs. 7	6 hours
"	" Okhla or Kalkaji	6	6 "
"	" Humayun's Tomb	5	5 "
"	" Qutab	8	8 "
"	" Shahdara	3	3 "
New Delhi	Qutab	6	6 "
"	Okhla or Kalkaji	5	5 "

General Note.—1. For journey outside Delhi Urban Area not covered by the entries in Schedule II the hirer must settle terms with the tonga driver.

2. The above rates are of II nd class tongas. Fares for I<sup>st</sup> th. class tongas shall be three quarters of the above.

3. The hirer is at liberty to make a private agreement with the owner or driver of the tonga for a lesser charge.

4. Should any driver charge more than the scheduled fare a complaint should be made to the Secy of the D.M. (1)



# All Day Bus Services

The D. T. S. (which stands for Delhi Transport Service) run a service of buses in and around Delhi Province.

## ROUTES

Route No.	From	To	for
1	Fountain	Timar pur	Kashmere Gate, L. Castle, Old Sectt.
1 A	Fountain	Kingsway	Kashmere Gate, Alipore Road, Old Sectt. University.
2	K. Gate	Cent. Sectt.	K. Gate C.P. Odeon, Gole Market,
3.	Fountain	C.O.D. Cantt.	C.P. Odeon, Kitchner Road, G. N. Bazar, S. Bazar.
4	Gole Market	Radio Colony	Odeon, Daryaganj, Red Fort, University.
5	K. Gate	Cent Sectt.	Red Fort, Darya Gunj, Odeon A. I. R. Station.
6	Gole Market	Lodi Road	Ministry of I. & S. Central Sectt.
7	Pusa Institute	Cent Sectt	Dow Nagar, Reading Road, Gole market.
8	Timarpur	" "	Old Sectt., Tis Hazari, Qutab Road, Pahar Ganj.
9	Old Sectt.	" "	L. Castle, K. Gate Fort, Daryaganj, S. House A.I.R. St.
9 A	C.P. (Odeon)	Lodi Road	Queensway, Ministry of I. & S. Sujun Singh Park.
10	Tishazari	Birla Temple	Ram Nagar, Pahar Ganj, C.P. Gole Market.
11	Fountain	Shaladra	Crossing Juma Bridge.
12	Hauz Quzi	Lodi Road	C.P. Odeon, Curzon Road, Supply Office.
13	Fountain	Pusa Institute	Rly. Station, Pahar Ganj, Dev Nagar.
14	Hauz Quzi	Cent Sectt.	C.P. Odeon, All India Radio Station.
15	Old Sectt.	" "	University, Birla Mill Pahar Ganj.
16	Fountain	Najafgarh	D.C.M. C. works.
17	Rly Station	Mehrault Kutab	C.P. Odeon, Sunderjung, Civil Aerodrome Safd. Hospital
18	" "	Okhla	Ashoka Pillar, Old Fort, Humayun's Tomb.
19	Fountain	Lodi Road	Red Fort, Daryaganj Harding Bridge, Ministry of I. & S.

